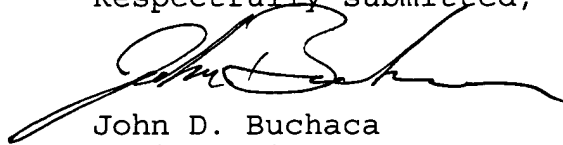


in the enclosed Attachment 2.

In light of the above, an early allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee Amendment, Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on September 19, 2001 by John D. Buchaca , Reg. No. 37,289.

Signature:



Date:

9-19-01

Serial No. 09/832,396 - CAHILL - AMENDMENT - SPECIFICATION

ATTACHMENT 1

Marked Up Version of the Specification

Page Two, lines 2-4, under the heading Prior Application, please amend the sentence as follows:

This is a [continuation] continuation-in-part of application Serial Number 09/046,112 filed March 20, 1998 now U.S. Patent No. 6,212,741 which is a continuation-in-part of Application Serial Number 08/536,400 filed September 29, 1995, now abandoned.

Serial No. 09/832,396 - CAHILL - AMENDMENT - CLAIMS

ATTACHMENT 2

Marked Up Version of the Claims

Please amend Claim 20 to read as follows:

20. (Once Amended) [The method of Claim 19,] A method for packaging an item for transport in a container among potentially obscuring protective material comprises:

releasably fastening a first end of a tether-based connector to said item; and

anchoring a second end of said connector to said container, wherein said method further comprises dispensing a length of tether from said connector.